

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W

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R 201523Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8299

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E.O. 11652: N/-

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ITALIAN AFFINITY RULES

REF: (A) STATE 254628; (B) LAASE-ORTMAN NOV 14 TELECON

1. ITALY ALMOST ALONE AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, DOES NOT RPT NOT PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS. BOTH SCHEDULED AND SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIER REPS, AS WELL AS TRAVEL AGENTS, HAVE APPROACHED EMBASSY INDICATING INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING LEGITIMATE SINGLE AFFINITY GROUPS OF AS MANY AS 250 PERSON, WHICH IS CAPACITY OF STRETCH DC-8S USED BY MOST SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS. PROBLEMS EVEN MORE SEVERE FOR WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT. THESE DIFFICULTIES APPARENTLY REFLECT CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH HAS REPORTEDLY REDUCED NUMBER OF POTENTIAL ONE-WEEK CHARTER CUSTOMERS.

2. GIVEN GOI AFFINITY POLICY, BACKED BY OCCASIONAL SEVERE CHECKS OF US ORIGIN AFFINITY GROUPS BY CIVILAVIA, US CARRIERS ARE REPORTEDLY RELUCTANT TO COMMIT AIRCRAFT TO US-ITALY AFFINITY CHARTER MARKET NEXT YEAR, FEARING POSSIBILITY OF LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION OR NONAPPROVAL BY CIVILAVIA FOR ALLEGED FAILURE OBSERVE GOI AFFINITY RULES.

3. EMBASSY THEREFORE PLANS APPROACH TO MINISTRIES TRANSPORT AND TOURISM IN NEAR FUTURE REQUESTING MODIFICATION GOI CHARTER

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POLICY TO PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY GROUPS. SUCH POLICY CHANGE BY GOI

WOULD ENABLE US CARRIERS COMPETE MORE EFFECTIVLY IN US-ITALIAN
AFFINITY CHARTER MARKET. (AT PRESENT ALITALIA AFFINITY CHARTERS ARE
NOT RPT NOT WELL POLICED BY CIVILAVIA TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE
WITH SINGLE AFFINITY RULE, WHILE US CARRIERS' DEPARTURES HAVE BEEN
DELAYED FOR HOURS WHILE EACH PASSENGER CAREFULLY CHECKED BY CIVILAVIA

4. EMBASSY AWARE THAT CAB INTENDS ABOLISH AFFINITY CHARTERS AFTER
1975 SEASON. BUT USG PRESENTLY PERMITS SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS AND
EMBASSY SEES NO REASON WHY US CARRIERS SHOULD BE DISADVANTAGED IN US-
ITALY AFFINITY CHARTER MARKET DURING 1975.

5. MINISTRY TOURISM SUPPORTS CHANGE PERMITTING SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS,

WHILE CIVILAVIA'S CURRENT ATTITUDE REFLECTS ALITALIAN POLICY. WITH
ACTIVE EMBASSY ROLE, THERE IS CHANCE THAT MINISTRY TRANSPORT CAN BE
PERSUADED MODIFY AFFINITY CHARTER POLICY TO PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY
CHARTERS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME16210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740336-0184
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741127/aaaaawsa.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 254628; (B) LAASE-ORTMAN N, OV 14 TELECON
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - ITALIAN AFFINITY RULES
TAGS: EAIR, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005